

# **CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**MAY 10, 2007**

## **MINUTES**

**The regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, May 10, 2007 at the Cumberland Administrative Office/Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, was called to order at 7:39 PM, by Chairman Frederic C. Crowley, with the following present:**

**Frederic C. Crowley, Chairman, Robert Thibodeau, Vice Chair, Karen MacBeth, Clerk, Lisa Beaulieu, Donald J. Costa, W. David Wagner, Earl T. Wood**

**Also Present: Donna A. Morelle, Ed.D., Superintendent; Susan C. Carney, Ph.D, Assistant Superintendent; Joseph A. Rotella, Esq., Director of Administration**

**I. Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Costa.**

**II. Approval of Agenda - On a motion by Mr. Wagner, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the agenda.**

**III. Chairperson's Report - The Chair made note that this is School Nurses Week, Volunteers in Schools Week and Teacher Appreciation**

**Week. He stated they do appreciate anyone from those groups and thanked them.**

#### **IV. Comments from the Public**

**A. Public Comments - None.**

**B. Student Government Report - The Superintendent noted this will be on a regular schedule in the new school year.**

#### **V. Reports of Standing Committees**

**A. Special Education Advisory - Ms. MacBeth reported attending the Special Education Advisory meeting when Jay Masterson, a resource teacher at NCMS and the district trainer, put on a power point presentation on Crisis Intervention and what training is given in the district when a child is in crisis.**

**B. Curriculum Committee - Ms. Beaulieu reported the committee met to continue discussion of KeyWorks of School Boards on their self-study. She noted the public, teachers and staff are welcome to attend.**

#### **VI. Consent Agenda**

**A. Police Report**

**B. Truancy Report**

**C. Approval of Minutes**

**1. Open Session: 4/12/07, 4/26/07**

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**D. Facilities Report**

**E. Enrollment Report**

**On a motion by Mr. Wagner and Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the Consent Agenda.**

**VII. Approval of Minutes**

**A. Executive Session: 1/11/07, 3/8/07, 3/22/07, 3/28/07 - Ms. Beaulieu made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Wagner provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE minutes of 1/11, 3/22 and 3/28/2007; and 5-0 with Ms. MacBeth recusing herself from the vote on 3/8/07, as she had recused herself from that meeting.**

**B. 2/8/07 - The Chair noted that certain members had made some objections to the minutes and Mr. Rotella had ruled that the minutes could be voted upon with the objections noted on the minutes. Mr. Wagner made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Thibodeau provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 3-1 TO APPROVE the minutes, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wagner, Mr. Thibodeau, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Mr. Costa; ABSTAIN: Mr. Wood, Ms. Beaulieu.**

**C. 4/12/07/4/26/07 - On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the minutes.**

**VIII. Personnel Recommendations - The following recommendation was presented:**

**A. Ms. MacBeth made a motion to approve the resignation of Susan Moore, Director of Special Education, Cumberland Public Schools, effective 6/30/2007. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 5-2 TO APPROVE the resignation with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wagner, Mr. Thibodeau, Ms. MacBeth, Ms. Beaulieu, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Mr. Wood, Mr. Costa.**

## **IX. Old Business**

**A. Building Committee Update - Mr. Wood reported on CHS2010, stating that the driveway should have some pavement by the end of the week. KBA and Dimeo representatives met with the fire chief and the building inspector for cost savings. Mr. Wood stressed that the campus will be closed for the summer the day after school lets out. He reported the 3.5 Building Committee made a recommendation and he has met with the Mayor regarding the scope and funding. He will report out again after meeting with the Superintendent. The Superintendent reported Mr. Davignon will be meeting with Mr. Ward at the Valley Breeze and Mr. Morris from Dimeo and there should be a report in next week's paper. Dr. Morelle stated she attended a high school faculty meeting and made arrangements for representatives from KBA and Dimeo to make a presentation to the faculty before the end of the year. Mr. Wood explained they are proceeding with the COPS grant and will need a list of equipment and a purchase receipt for their share of the \$48,000.**

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**B. Approval of Revised Job Description - High School Principal - Ms. MacBeth commented that the job description looks phenomenal. Ms. MacBeth made a motion to approve the job description as presented in the packet. Mr. Wagner provided a second. Mr. Wood asked if the middle school was considered secondary. The Superintendent explained the difference is in the certification. She noted that the middle school principal position has its own job description. On a roll call vote, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the description.**

### **X. New Business**

**A. Recalls - The Superintendent reported recalls would begin between now and the beginning of the school year. She didn't have any recommendations tonight but will keep the item on the agenda. Mr. Rotella noted some are on the list because their certifications expire on August 31st. They won't be recalled until their course work is completed and submitted to the Department of Education. Some teachers do qualify for unemployment benefits for the summer.**

**B. Report of Middle School Study Group - Dr. Kenworthy and Mr. Pires reported on their consensus items developed from their research. Dr. Kenworthy recognized members of the group, Dr. Carney, Mrs. Lewis, Ms. Thorburn, Ms. Hallenbeck, Ms. Riley-Chamot**

and Mr. Santos. Ms. Riley-Chamot explained they began with the best practice for the middle school level of education and how they organized their work. Ms. Lewis spoke about middle school students currently being grouped homogeneously in all subjects by their weakest subject. Ms. Thorburn reported teachers will need support and professional development, especially in differentiated instruction.

Mr. Pires noted they were looking to remain high performing. The Superintendent reported meeting with the group and concurs with their recommendation to start with the 6th grade in September with heterogeneous grouping in all content areas except mathematics. It was part of the strategic plan and the middle school reform. Mr. Wood asked about tutoring and Mr. Pires noted they would look at supporting students as the next component. Ms. Crowley clarified that it was pacing for students in math that made it is easier to teach homogeneously. Ms. MacBeth thanked the committee and expressed concern for the 7th and 8th grades. A parent read a statement in support of this. Dr. Carney recognized teachers, Ms. Coughlin, Ms. Oldmixon and Ms. Vachon and parents Mrs. Ballou, Mrs. Corliss, Mrs. Joyce and Mr. Asis. She noted her background is math believes it is all about expectations and hopes to get rid of titles.

**XI. Superintendent's Report** - The Superintendent thanked the Middle School Task Force and is proud of their work. She reminded school committee members of their invitation to the reception at the high school for distinguished scholars and explained the Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be announced then. Dr. Morelle reported

attending the Safe Routes to School meeting and they will be putting together a grant team for K-8.

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The work will be over three to five years and will include an infrastructure and some smaller programs. She also stated Ms. Moore's leaving is bittersweet and thanked her for what she has done in the district.

**XII. Comments from the Public - Mr. McLaughlin thanked the committee for their help in obtaining funds for the Debate Team. There will be a pasta dinner May 22nd at the Knights of Columbus hall on Broad Street. He asked the Superintendent to reconsider the four buses, stating he drove Mendon Road and there are no crosswalks or handicap pitches at intersections. The Superintendent noted she is working with the police department and no decisions have been made. Mrs. Steinke asked about the Kindergarten enrollment. Ms. Fruchere had some questions regarding the middle school reform. The Assistant Superintendent invited Mrs. Fruchere to call or make an appointment to meet. Dr. Carney explained there would be an informational meeting for parents. Mrs. Connolly spoke about self-esteem and morale. The Superintendent explained this change is to meet the academic, social and emotional needs of students. The Chair recommended Mrs. Connolly put herself on the informational**

workshop list through the Assistant Superintendent's office. Mrs. Coutu commented this is a wonderful program but there is a need for professional development and there is a short window for that for teachers. Mr. Santoro asked if there was financial support for this and the Chair explained the budget hasn't been proposed to the Town Council yet.

**XIII. School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports) - Ms. MacBeth commended the committee for looking into the tracking issue and there are representatives from teachers and parents and she is hearing support for this. Ms. Beaulieu noted she had announced the Science Olympiad at the High School and she was informed that McCourt Middle School also participated and have for almost for 17 years. She reported the Debate Team won 18 awards at the state championship. Mrs. LaPlante is retiring from coaching after 28 years. Ms. Beaulieu reported high school students participated in the national History Day and there is a spring celebration of youth art at Town Hall. Mr. Wood reported JJM Cumberland Hill will sponsor a Celebration of Learning on the 17th. Field trips are starting. He reported a garden club was started at JJM Cumberland Hill and teacher appreciation was held today. Mr. Wood suggested having the debate team or the robotics team make a presentation before the School Committee. Mr. Costa congratulated a Garvin fourth grader, Allison Smith, for being accepted to the National Young Scholars Program at Union College, New York. He suggested inviting some of the achievers to the first meeting in June. The Superintendent**



**suggested having a recognition night.**

**XIV. Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion and/or Action Items Referred to in GLRI 42-46-5**

**A. Personnel Matters - Exception (1)**

**1. CTA/ICSE**

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**B. Negotiations/Litigation - Exception (2)**

**1. CTA/ICSE**

**2. Central Administrators' Contracts**

**3. Non-Contractual Salaries**

**4. Potential Litigation**

**Mr. Costa made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Ms. MacBeth provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE adjourning to Executive Session. Open Session recessed at 9:30 p.m.**

**Open session reconvened at 10:21 p.m. On a motion by Ms. MacBeth, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE sealing the Executive Session minutes.**

**XV. Adjournment - On a motion by Mr. Wagner, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE adjourning**

**Open Session at 10:22 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Shirley Harris**

**Recording Secretary**

**Subject to approval by the School Committee**